

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. II, No. 46

DECEMBER 29, 1923

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

California Typhoid Death Rate Higher.

According to an announcement, just made by the United States Bureau of the Census, California is one of four states in the registration area that showed a higher typhoid mortality rate in 1922 than 1921. To be sure, the rise in the rate is small but it indicates clearly that eternal vigilance in the control of this preventable disease is necessary in California if the enviable record of previous years is to be maintained. It is true that the number of typhoid deaths occurring in California during recent years has been so few that a small group of fatal cases in a limited outbreak may be sufficient to cause an appreciable increase in the rate for the entire state. It is probable that the 1922 increase may be traced directly to an uncontrolled outbreak, with many fatal cases, occurring among Oriental laborers in a remote rural district, quite inaccessible from main routes of travel.

The other states showing higher typhoid mortality rates in 1922 than in 1921 are Colorado, Mississippi, and New Hampshire. The rates for each year for these states are as follows:

	1922	1921
California -----	4.7	4.3
Colorado -----	11.4	10.1
Mississippi -----	19.0	18.6
New Hampshire -----	5.2	3.6

The typhoid death rate for the United States registration area during 1922 was 7.5 per 100,000 population, the lowest ever shown for the regis-

tration area. There were 6981 deaths from this disease in 1922 in the registration area. Rhode Island had the lowest rate, 1.2 per 100,000 population, while the highest rate was that for South Carolina, 23 per 100,000 population.

California's record in the reduction of the state typhoid death rate is one of which every Californian may well be proud. The rate fell from 32.6 in 1906 to 4.1 in 1921. Had the 1906 rate prevailed in 1921, there would have been nearly 1200 deaths in the state during that year instead of the 147 deaths that actually occurred. The typhoid death rates for the larger cities of the state are much lower than for the rural districts. In fact, the large cities in California determine the downward trend of the state rate, and much credit must be given to the larger cities for their work in providing water supplies of unquestioned purity.

With full-time health departments working in most counties it would be possible to bring the typhoid mortality rate down almost to the vanishing point. There is no reason why California should not make a record in typhoid control comparable with the remarkable records made by the New England States, notably Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The California State Board of Health urges the earnest cooperation of all health departments in the state in reducing the typhoid morbidity and mortality during the coming year. The thorough application of known preventative measures will bring about the result desired.

Case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Reported.

A resident of Inyo County recently spent eight days on a hunting and fishing trip, about ten days following which he became ill. He was removed to Los Angeles for medical attention, where his illness was diagnosed as Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He showed typical symptoms of the disease, including a spotted petechial eruption distributed over the entire body including the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. This disease is commonly known as "tick fever," and is transmitted by the bite of a certain type of tick which is common in Nevada and parts of California. It is believed that this patient became infected somewhere close to the California-Nevada line.

Controlling Smallpox In an Auto Camp.

A case of smallpox occurred recently in an automobile camp in the outskirts of Pasadena. Because of the fact that there had been extensive exposure to this case the entire camp was placed under quarantine, written permits to leave the camp being given only to those who were successfully vaccinated. Those who refused vaccination were placed in quarantine for the incubation period of the disease. Dr. F. W. Hodgden, Jr., city health officer, vaccinated approximately 300 individuals in the camp. Fifteen persons who refused vaccination were placed under quarantine. Permission was given to all individuals who desired to leave the camp, providing they had the vaccination certificate from the city health department.

"There is no single cog in the human mechanism more important to the pursuit of life, happiness and usefulness than the eye-sight."

"Every child has a right to a good start in life. But the one who is blind from neglect, or carelessness, or ignorance, is given a terrible handicap in the race."

By the intelligent application of the knowledge we now possess, we can absolutely stamp out diphtheria, one of the most dreaded of all communicable diseases, not only on account of its high mortality, but also the distress, yea, the agony, to which many of its victims, mostly helpless children, are subjected.—Chas. J. Hastings, M.D., Medical officer of Health, Toronto.

Failure to Report Disease Brings Fine.

A chiropractor residing in Long Beach was recently arrested for failure to report a case of poliomyelitis. It was stated that he attended the case for ten days and failed to report it to the health officer until the school nurse located the case and notified the health department. This practitioner permitted the patient to visit his office, coming into contact with other patients and children. He was found guilty and was fined \$25.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY UPLIFT.

If I had the problem of elevating the general moral and mental tone of a backward community, I would seek the services of the public health worker, the sanitarian and the personal physician even before those of the teacher. Health education must go forward hand in hand with that of the mind.—Ray Lyman Wilbur, President, Stanford University.

Another Case of Botulism Reported.

A young woman recently went to Redding, Shasta County, from another part of the state, for a visit with her parents. She was taken ill a few days after her arrival and died following an illness of six days. Because of the uncertainty of the cause of death it became a coroner's case. A review of the symptoms indicates that the patient suffered from botulism. This is corroborated by the fact that shortly after she was taken ill a number of chickens on the premises died of "limberneck." Canned goods eaten by the patient before she was taken ill are being subjected to investigation.

I am decidedly of the opinion that cancer should be made a reportable disease. It is the proper function of the health department to take cognizance of the conditions frequently met with in cancer cases previous to taking treatment, while at the same time it is essentially the function of the health department to protect the community against the practices of those who are not qualified to render the proper services required.—Frederick L. Hoffman, L.L.D.

The canker of disease gnaws at the very root of our national strength. The sufferers are not few or insignificant. They are the bread winners for at least a third part of our population. That they have causes of disease indolently left to blight them amid their toil is surely an intolerable wrong. And to be able to redress that wrong is, perhaps, among the greatest opportunities for good which human institutions can afford.—Sir John Simon.

Higher Maternal Death Rate for Year 1922.

Although the maternal death rate for the United States birth registration area was lower in 1922 than it has been for any year since 1915, the similar rate for California in 1922 was slightly higher. The death rate for puerperal septicemia in California was lower in 1922 than in 1921, indicating that better care was given to mothers at childbirth. The machinery for maternal and infant welfare provided under the Sheppard-Towner law, had not started operation during 1922. It is reasonable to believe that with the increased facilities for maternal welfare, the childbirth death rate for 1923 and 1924 will show appreciable decreases. The maternal mortality rates for the United States registration area during recent years are as follows:

Year	U. S. Regis. Area	California
1919	7.4	8.0
1920	8.0	7.7
1921	6.8	6.8
1922	6.6	7.2

The mortality rates for puerperal septicemia for the birth registration area and for California during the same years are as follows:

Year	U. S. Regis. Area	California
1919	2.3	2.5
1920	2.7	2.6
1921	2.7	3.0
1922	2.4	2.6

ISOLATION BY INVITATION?

Contempt of sanitary laws is not easily explained, particularly when one considers the rigor with which other less important laws are enforced.

For instance, some one motors on the public road at a speed of 21 miles between two indicators showing a maximum of 20 miles and is at once called upon to pay a fine of \$10 to the exchequer.

A man is suspected of having sold a bottle of wine or beer and a fine of \$1,000 with imprisonment is imposed on him for this illicit trading.

But one may spread the germs of typhoid, tuberculosis or diphtheria by selling polluted milk; one may sow the seed of the most severe diseases; one may let children die without even giving them the slightest medical attention, yet such crimes remain unpunished.

Must we then conclude that the life and health of our children are less important than the preservation of macadam; that safeguarding public health is less to be appreciated than the trade in alcoholic beverages? The fact remains that so long as the declaration of infectious diseases and the isolation of infectious patients is not required otherwise than by invitations which may be ignored, our children will continue to die from diphtheria, whooping cough and scarlet fever, and our people suffer from typhoid, tuberculosis and other avoidable diseases.—Bulletin Sanitaire, Montreal.

Psychopathic Wards For San Francisco.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors at the urgent request of Dr. William C. Hassler, City Health Officer, has made provision for the opening of two psychopathic wards at the San Francisco Hospital the first of the year. This forward step marks the progress of the city in looking after the best interests of its sick and unfortunate. The mentally sick are to be treated as patients and they are to receive the consideration that all sick persons deserve.

In the United States the cancer death rate during the last decade has increased from 74 to 86 per one hundred thousand of population. It is conservatively estimated that we have now in the United States about one hundred thousand deaths from cancer per annum. For large American cities, representing about one-fourth of the total population, the rate during 1922 reached 104.1 per one hundred thousand while for the city of San Francisco the rate was as high as 161.8 per one hundred thousand.—Frederick L. Hoffman, L.L.D.

State Forestry Camps To be Sanitary.

At a meeting of the State Board of Forestry held in Sacramento recently, a resolution was adopted by which all state parks and other lands under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Forestry are placed under the sanitary supervision of the State Board of Health.

MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

272 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 89, San Francisco 62, Los Angeles County 23, San Diego 9, Long Beach 5, Fresno County 7, Berkeley 6, Alameda 7, Turlock 2, East San Diego 2, El Monte 1, Kern County 1, Richmond 1, Contra Costa County 2, Mendocino County 1, Stanislaus County 2, San Fernando 3, San Jose 1, Petaluma 1, Bakersfield 1, Redwood City 1, Torrance 2, Santa Monica 1, Merced County 1, Stockton 3, Alameda County 1, Huntington Park 1, Hanford 1, Berkeley 2, Riverside 2, Hawthorne 1, Marysville 2, Madera County 2, Whittier 2, Mill Valley 6, Sacramento 3, Sonoma County 3, Fillmore 3, Selma 1, Ross 1, Ventura County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Sebastopol 1, Vallejo 1, Santa Maria 1, San Anselmo 1, Ontario 2.

Measles.

280 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 123, Monterey County 12, San Joaquin County 10, Burlingame 5, San Luis Obispo County 15, Los Angeles County 8, Berkeley 25, Santa Cruz 8, Salinas 6, Santa Rosa 2, Palo Alto 2, Contra Costa County 2, Kern County 4, Hanford 1, Santa

*From reports received on December 24, 25 and 26 for week ending December 22.

Monica 1, Burbank 1, Redlands 1, Petaluma 3. Pasadena 2, Lake County 3, San Diego County 1, Riverside 1, Merced County 1, Marin County 1, Alameda 1, Taft 1, Shasta County 1, Merced 1, Mendocino County 2, San Diego 1, Morgan Hill 1, Long Beach 1, Bakersfield 3, Mountain View 1, Mill Valley 2, Sacramento 2, Sonoma County 3, San Mateo County 2, Los Angeles 9, Ontario 11.

Scarlet Fever.

263 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Taft 7, Fresno County 17, Whittier 15, Pasadena 6, Los Angeles County 21, San Diego 5, San Francisco 53, Los Angeles 64, Contra Costa County 1, Richmond 1, Kern County 5, Colusa County 3, South Pasadena 1, Santa Ana 1, Stanislaus County 2, Fullerton 1, Ventura County 1, Monrovia 1, Bakersfield 1, Redlands 1, Turlock 2, Santa Cruz County 3, Watsonville 1, Burlingame 1, Pomona 1, Long Beach 5, Alameda 2, Alameda County 1, Merced 1, Escondido 3, Tracy 2, Merced County 3, Riverside 1, Newman 2, Mendocino County 1, Berkeley 2, Riverside County 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Joaquin County 4, Orange County 4, Clovis 1, Mill Valley 1, Sacramento 2, Sonoma County 4, Ontario 4.

Whooping Cough.

15 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 3, Fresno County 1, Long Beach 1, Williams 3, San Francisco 1, Los Angeles 5.

Smallpox.

121 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 2, Los Angeles 52, Los Angeles County 21, Alhambra 5, Long Beach 11, Pomona 6, Santa Paula 5, Orange County 10, Santa Ana 1, San Diego 1, Lassen County 1, Pasadena 4, Huntington Park 1, Inyo County 1.

Typhoid Fever.

17 cases of typhoid have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 6, Richmond 1, Los Angeles County 1, Berkeley 1, Burlingame 1, Los Angeles 7.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

2 cases of cerebrospinal meningitis have been reported, Alameda County reporting 1 and San Francisco 1.

Poliomyelitis.

5 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Fresno County 1, Long Beach 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

San Francisco reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Typhus Fever.

Los Angeles reported one case of typhus fever.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1923				1922			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Dec. 22 received by Dec. 26	Week ending			Reports for week ending Dec. 23 received by Dec. 26
	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15		Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	2	1	0	2	0	2	8	3
Chickenpox	140	214	169	132	86	148	118	74
Diphtheria	308	345	337	272	215	205	171	179
Dysentery (Bacillary)	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2
Epidemic Encephalitis	1	3	4	1	4	3	3	1
Epidemic Jaundice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gonorrhoea	96	143	134	87	171	81	125	87
Influenza	25	39	39	35	17	35	26	21
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Malaria	1	0	3	3	2	5	2	2
Measles	291	366	370	280	21	20	24	21
Mumps	31	40	28	9	20	13	17	15
Pneumonia	52	95	111	68	105	109	96	121
Poliomyelitis	11	12	5	5	0	0	0	0
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	251	243	280	263	179	174	156	105
Smallpox	111	164	115	121	16	12	4	9
Syphilis	140	173	189	94	110	83	130	56
Tuberculosis	150	188	111	153	96	154	157	75
Typhoid Fever	28	20	18	17	15	19	9	12
Typhus Fever	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Whooping Cough	20	41	28	15	57	51	71	34
Totals	1659	2092	1943	1559	1115	1115	1119	817

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE